

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**Cataract Creek Dam  
Seepage Investigation and  
Corrective Alternative Development**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is seeking engineering firms qualified to assist the DNRC with a Preliminary Feasibility Study, evaluating foundation and lake bed seepage, determining preliminary spillway replacement or improvement costs, and providing a feasibility level evaluation of project worth. Cataract Creek Dam is located in Madison County approximately 3 miles west of the Town of Pony, MT. DNRC is soliciting and will evaluate qualifications from engineering firms desiring to be considered for this project. The work must be done under the direction of a professional engineer licensed in the State of Montana with specific experience in Dam Rehabilitation.

**BACKGROUND**

Cataract Creek Dam is located in Madison County, Montana approximately 3 miles west of the Town of Pony. This on-stream storage project consists of an 80 foot high, 720 foot long zoned dam. The project impounds approximately 1400 acre-feet at the spillway crest and 1800 acre-feet at the dam crest. The dam is currently classified as "High" hazard, and is regulated by the Montana Dam Safety Program. The dam is owned by the DNRC and is operated and maintained by the Cataract Creek Water Users Association.

The earthen embankment dam was completed circa 1959. The left side of the dam is founded on a massive granite formation and the right side is tied in to a glacial moraine feature. The dam was extensively grouted in 1960 due to excessive seepage present at the initial filling. The grouting effort did little to reduce the seepage, and site reports indicate that some hydraulic fracturing may have occurred during the grouting process. Seepage is evident downstream of the dam over a large lineal extent.

The spillway has a concrete control structure that discharges in to an unlined earthen channel. The Channel terminates at a 40 foot drop into Cataract creek. Project records indicate that the dam has spilled twice since it was built, 1975 and 1995. These two events resulted in substantial head cutting in the channel especially at the drop off into cataract creek. Neither event was major nor of long duration.

**EXISTING INFORMATION**

A packet of information will be made available to firms interested in this project. This packet will consist of copies of the following:

- Latest DNRC Annual Inspection Report.
- Phase I inspection Report USACOE 1980.
- Spillway adequacy study DNRC 2004.
- Geological study DNRC 2005.

Other historical documents and drawings, including original construction plans are available for review at the DNRC State Water Projects Bureau office in Helena, Montana.

### SCOPE OF WORK

DNRC has need for professional engineering services to assist in a Preliminary Feasibility Study. Qualifications are being solicited from firms capable of performing the following work:

1. Calculation of firm annual basin water yield and water marketing potential.
2. Based upon basin yield develop alternatives and estimates to either reduce the dam, remove the dam, or mitigate seepage and perform spillway modifications to keep the dam at its present storage capacity.
3. Assist in developing a presentation to present findings to the Water Users and the Legislature.

Montana State Water Projects uses guidelines from the United States Bureau of Reclamation Standards in regards to earthen dam construction. As a High Hazard Dam this project is under the regulatory jurisdiction of Montana State Dam Safety. Consultant should be familiar with these guidelines and requirements.

The project budget is \$75,000.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

This project is for planning purposes and has a maximum of an 18 month timeframe to complete from signing of contract. Anticipated contract signing will be July 2008.

### PROPOSAL DEADLINE AND REQUIREMENTS

Firms desiring to be considered for the work should deliver to DNRC **five copies** of the information requested below not later than **5:00 p.m., local time, June 11, 2008**. The Qualifications must be in DNRC's possession by this time, **not** postmarked. The following is a listing of the items required for consideration based upon Montana Code Annotated Title 18-8-204.

1. *Overall and Specialized Experience of the Project Team.* Describe the project team's overall and specialized experience and qualifications as it relates to performing the tasks, or similar tasks, identified in the Scope of Work. Please limit this to no more than 10 pages. Elaborate and extraneous materials will not be reviewed.

2. *Experience on Similar Projects in the Last 10-Years.* Provide a description of the projects that members of the team have been involved with that are similar in nature to this project. Provide a description of the project, project dates, the services provided by the project team, members of the proposed team involved with the project, and contact information for the Owner of the project.
3. *Technical Approach.* Provide a description of how you intend to address and approach the tasks identified in the Scope of Work. Identify any special investigations or data requirements necessary to complete the tasks.
4. *Time and Budget.* Provide a description of projects the team has been involved with that have had budget or time constraints for the work required and any innovative techniques or management practices utilized by the team to perform the required services within the constraints. Also address the team's capability to meet the schedule and project budget requirements presented in this RFQ. If appropriate, portions of this item can be combined with Item 2 – Experience on Similar Projects.
5. *Office location(s).* Indicate the location of the personnel performing the work. If work would be shared between main and branch offices at different locations, indicate office locations and what work would be directed or performed from each office.
6. *Organization Chart.* Show proposed relationships among key personnel, support staff, and any subcontractors who would participate, identifying which aspects of work each person would perform. Work assignments should correspond to work described in the "Scope of Work" section plus additional items identified by the Consultant.
7. *Workloads.* Provide information regarding current and projected workloads of the personnel involved. Additionally, indicate the percentage of the total project time that will be completed by the individual. This section should allow DNRC to clearly understand the personnel that will actually complete project tasks.
8. *Resumes.* Provide resumes for each employee shown on the organization chart who will perform the work and the supervisory personnel who will be responsible for the work proposed. Include education, professional or technical certifications or licenses, and work history relevant to each person's job assignment on this project. Again, if a main and a branch office would be involved, please identify the offices from which the employees would work. Individual resumes must be limited to three pages each.
9. *Subconsultants.* Clearly identify any subconsultants and provide general information, resumes, and specific qualifications. This information should be included in the sections addressing the project team.

The DNRC may request additional information, clarification, or references at its discretion.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

DNRC will use the following evaluation criteria (listed in order of relative importance) to rate firms responding to this request. The criteria will be applied in evaluating the project team who would work on the project.

1. An evaluation of the proposed technical approach to the project. The technical approach should demonstrate a complete understanding of the issues involved in this RFQ.
2. Qualifications of personnel assigned to the project. Overall and specialized recent technical experience and qualifications of the project team as it relates to tasks identified in the Scope of Work.
3. Experience on similar projects including any reference checks DNRC elects to conduct.
4. Historic and current capacity to meet time and project budget requirements.
5. Present and projected workloads. The firm must show that they have the resources to complete the work in a timely and efficient manner. Personnel who will actually complete project tasks must be clearly identified.
6. Past experience with the DNRC and/or other public agencies.
7. Location of the firm and personnel to complete the work.

## GENERAL

The work on this project must be done under the direction of a professional engineer licensed in the State of Montana with specific experience in General Civil, Geotechnical or Geology.

## SELECTION PROCESS

A team of evaluators will review the Qualifications using the previously described evaluation criteria. DNRC may determine as part of the evaluation that interviews are necessary. Based on DNRC's rating of proposals, the Department will negotiate an agreement with the most qualified firm to conduct the work. The method and schedule of reimbursement will be stipulated in the agreement. If a satisfactory agreement cannot be negotiated with the most qualified firm, negotiations will be terminated and negotiations will be undertaken with the second firm.

DNRC reserves the right to negotiate a Scope of Work that modifies the Scope of Work listed in the RFQ based upon the availability of DNRC staff to perform Project tasks.

## QUESTIONS AND SUBMITTALS

Please address questions and Proposals to:

David C. Larson, PE  
State Water Projects Bureau  
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
1424 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
PO Box 201601  
Helena, Montana 59620-1601

Phone: (406) 444-6653  
Email: dclarson@mt.gov

## RECEIPT OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PUBLIC INSPECTION

### **Public Information**

All information received in response to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ), including copyrighted material, is deemed public information and will be made available for public viewing and copying shortly after the time for receipt of Qualification's has passed with the following four exceptions: (1) bona fide trade secrets meeting the requirements of the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, Title 30, chapter 14, part 4, MCA, that have been properly marked, separated, and documented; (2) matters involving individual safety as determined by the State; (3) any company financial information requested by the State to determine vendor responsibility, unless prior written consent has been given by the offeror as set out in section 18-4-308, MCA; and (4) other constitutional protections. See Mont. Code Ann. § 18-4-304.

### **Procurement Officer Review of Qualifications**

Upon opening the Qualification's received in response to this RFQ, the procurement officer in charge of the solicitation will review the Qualifications and separate out any information that meets the referenced exceptions in **Public Information Section** above, providing the following conditions have been met:

- Confidential information is clearly marked and separated from the rest of the Proposal.
- An affidavit from an offeror's legal counsel attesting to and explaining the validity of the trade secret claim as set out in Title 30, chapter 14, part 4, MCA, is attached to each Proposal containing trade secrets. Counsel must use the State of Montana "Affidavit for Trade Secret Confidentiality" form in requesting the trade secret claim. This affidavit form is available on the General Services Division's website at:  
<<http://www.discoveringmontana.com/doa/gsd/css/Resources/Forms.asp>> or by calling (406) 444-2575.

Information separated out under this process will be available for review only by the procurement officer, the evaluation committee members, and limited other designees. Offerors must be prepared to pay all legal costs and fees associated with defending a claim for confidentiality in the event of a "right to know" (open records) request from another party.